

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



Office of External Affairs

13 DEC 1982

Joe —

DCI might be interested in Sen. Dodd's proposal to submit a "Harkin-type" amendment (presumably to the Defense Bill).

Magnihan will take this as an assault on SSCI turf, and react strongly.



10 Dec.
1830.

STAT

J R C

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 8, 1982

Dear Colleague:

At an appropriate time in the remaining days of this session, I intend to offer legislation to prohibit funding, either directly or indirectly, in support of paramilitary groups or irregular forces operating in Central America. The prohibition would take effect January 20, 1983 and would remain in force for two years.

It is common knowledge that the Reagan administration is providing, in one fashion or another, support for paramilitary organizations operating along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border and within Nicaragua itself. In my view and in the view of many others, such support sends the wrong message at the wrong time in the wrong place. Among other things, the Reagan policy (1) belies any fundamental understanding of the social, economic and political forces at work in the region; (2) signals our interest in promoting military solutions to political problems; (3) identifies us with the status quo, if not the reactionary, forces in the region; (4) puts us at loggerheads with the major democracies in the region, namely Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia; (5) plays into the hands of Fidel Castro and his cohorts who, while they did not create the deplorable conditions in Central America, are fully prepared to take advantage of them; and (6) evidences a complete disregard for binding treaty commitments which bar us from intervening in the internal affairs of the nations of this Hemisphere.

For these reasons I am convinced that the Reagan administration's approach to Central America is the foreign policy equivalent of Dienbienphu. Simply stated, it lays the groundwork for an unmitigated disaster. Gunboat diplomacy is no more popular in Central America today than it was at the turn of the Century. The legislation I will offer, a copy of which is enclosed, recognizes this basic political fact of life and seeks to bring our policy toward Central America into accord with it.

I know you will give this matter the serious consideration it deserves and in doing so, I welcome your support for and cosponsorship of this legislation. If you wish to be listed as a cosponsor or have any questions, please have your staff contact Bob Dockery in my office at 4-2838.

Sincerely,


CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
United States Senator

SENATOR DODD

TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN TYPES OF OPERATIONS
IN CENTRAL AMERICA

"SEC. _____. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds may be obligated or expended, directly or indirectly, after January 20, 1983 in support of irregular forces or paramilitary groups operating in the Central American region.

"(b) The provisions of this section shall terminate on January 20, 1985."